




PROJECT 10073 RECORD

1. DATE - TIME GROUP 20 or 21 Oct 68 1830Z 2330Z	2. LOCATION Decatur, Illinois
3. SOURCE Civilian	10. CONCLUSION Other (CONFLICTING DATA)
4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS One	
5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 95 Minutes	11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS The observer sighted a white light that was similar to a star, however after looking at it through a telescope, he decided that it wasn't.
6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground-Visual	
7. COURSE SSW to WSW	COMMENTS: In observers original letter, he gave the date of the sighting as 20 Oct 68. In his completed 117 he gave the date as 21 Oct 68. At 6:30PM local Arcturus was at about 23 deg elevation in the west and at 8:05PM local, Arcturus was on the horizon at 302 deg azimuth. It seems quite likely that the observer was looking at Arcturus, however because of the conflict in dates the sighting is being carried as Conflicting Data.
8. PHOTOS <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	

I would like to give the sighting just as it happened - all together!

I first spotted it when I was outside around 6:30 P.M. The object ^{first} caught my eye when I looked up and seen the moon; then I looked over and seen the object. It looked as if there was a hole in the sky! Well, I didn't pay much attention to the object and went inside. After being inside about 30 minutes I walked upstairs to my room; but as I went around the ~~#~~ stair case which is in my sisters room, my sister said, "Terry, look out here in the ~~school~~ sky!" When I did I seen the object, and my mind flashed back to when I seen that hole in the sky at 6:30 P.M. This was around 7:05 P.M. I went and grabbed my telescope which I looked through and focused the object in the viewer. It looked like this -  The trails of light which blinked off and on very slowly had red and blue lights on them. Then I took ~~my~~ the telescope away from the window and checked for smuges on the window or the telescope lenses which might show up in the viewer, there were none. The moon

very few clouds. Then I looked through the telescope again and the object was shaped differently. Like this - . The four points to the object (in the shape of a diamond) were glowing a dark greenish color. Not constantly glowing, but not flickering either. The lights would dim, (but not completely out) and then glow real bright. This process altogether took about 25 seconds each time. It was now about 7:40 P.M. My mother hollered for me to get my bath. I dashed down and took my bath as quickly as possible and I returned up-stairs and the object had moved down about 20 degrees in the sky. Suddenly the object shot lightning like bolts out of the center which was glowing intensely. The object was still shaped like this . As it shoot out these bolts of light I felt a coldness all through me, like there was something or someone telling me go away, go away. The object then slowly disappeared in the WSW.

Oct. 23. 1968

Dear [REDACTED]

This replies to your letter of October 20, 1968, in which you described your sighting of an unidentified aerial object.

Had you reported your sighting to Chanhute Air Force Base that evening or the next morning, the local UFO investigator would probably have been able to make an accurate evaluation of what you saw. Without additional information, we cannot offer an explanation. However, if you will complete the inclosed questionnaire and mail it in the attached envelope, our technical people at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, will be able to investigate further and make an evaluation.

We are sending you some newer material on UFO's that may help you to identify the object you saw. In addition, you might be interested in a pamphlet, Aids to Identification of Flying Objects, for sale at 20¢ each by the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 20402.

Sincerely,

JAMES H. AIKMAN
Major, USAF
Chief, Civil Branch
Community Relations Division
Office of Information

Attachments

Mr. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Decatur, Illinois 62521

SAF-OICC

WPAFB

Coord Cy - SAF-OICC
Cmbk Cy - SAF-OIC
Activity Cy - SAF-OIC
Reader Cy - SAF-OI
Stayback

[redacted] Oct. 20, 1968
Lt. Colonel, USAF
Chief, Civil Branch
Community Relations Division

Dear [redacted]

My name is [redacted]
[redacted] and I live at R. R.
[redacted], Decatur, Ill.
I have written to you
twice before and now
I have some informa-
tion that may startle
you. Tonight (the date is
above) around 7:15 P.M.,
me and my sister [redacted]
walked by her room
window and seen the
brightest object I've ^{ever} seen.
At first I thought it
was a star, but just to
be curious I ran and
grabbed my telescope. I stuck

the telescope up to the window and peered through. After spying the object I focused the lens and saw what seemed to be ^{two} comets. (Picture below)



Then I took away the telescope and looked at it with my eyes. It still looked like a star. But when I looked through the telescope again it looks somewhat like this.



All this time it was glowing brilliantly. Not bright like a ~~strobe~~ strobe light or a street light but like there was a hole punched in the sky. Kind of weird. It was flickering but not ~~is~~ moving at all. My mom yelled at me to come and take my bath so I hurried down and took it. It took me no longer than 20 minutes. I dashed back in my room and grabbed my telescope. But when I got to the window it

(the object) was warily in sight giving off bolts of light like lightning would. ~~But~~ it was lightning because I heard no ~~thunder~~ thunder and it was very quite outside. Finally the object disappeared in the southwest. I've never seen anything like it before and when it gave off ~~then~~ bolts of light it give me a kind of tingle through my body. I would have reported it to Chanute Air Force Base but it was now 8:05 P.M. and my mom would have

never let me. Well
I don't know what else
to say because right now
my mind is wondering.

Please Answer I
would like to know

Your friend,
Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

SIGHTING OF UNIDENTIFIED PHENOMENA QUESTIONNAIRE

BUDGET BUREAU APPROVAL
NUMBER 21-R258

THIS QUESTIONNAIRE HAS BEEN PREPARED SO THAT YOU CAN GIVE THE U.S. AIR FORCE AS MUCH INFORMATION AS POSSIBLE CONCERNING THE UNIDENTIFIED PHENOMENON THAT YOU HAVE OBSERVED. PLEASE TRY TO ANSWER ALL OF THE QUESTIONS. THE INFORMATION YOU GIVE WILL BE USED FOR RESEARCH PURPOSES. YOUR NAME WILL NOT BE USED IN CONNECTION WITH ANY OF YOUR STATEMENTS OR CONCLUSIONS WITHOUT YOUR PERMISSION. RETURN TO AIR FORCE BASE INVESTIGATOR FOR FORWARDING TO FTD (TDETR), WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB, OHIO 45433, IAW AFR 80-17. (IF ADDITIONAL SHEETS ARE NEEDED FOR NARRATIVE OR SKETCHES ATTACH SECURELY TO THIS FORM OR ANNOTATE WITH YOUR NAME FOR IDENTIFICATION.)

1. WHEN DID YOU SEE THE PHENOMENON?

DAY Monday, 21st MONTH Oct. YEAR 1968

2. WHAT TIME DID YOU FIRST SIGHT THE PHENOMENON?

HOUR 6:00 MINUTES 130 ☐ A.M. ☒ P.M.

3. WHAT TIME DID YOU LAST SIGHT THE PHENOMENON?

HOUR 8:00 MINUTES 105 ☐ A.M. ☒ P.M.

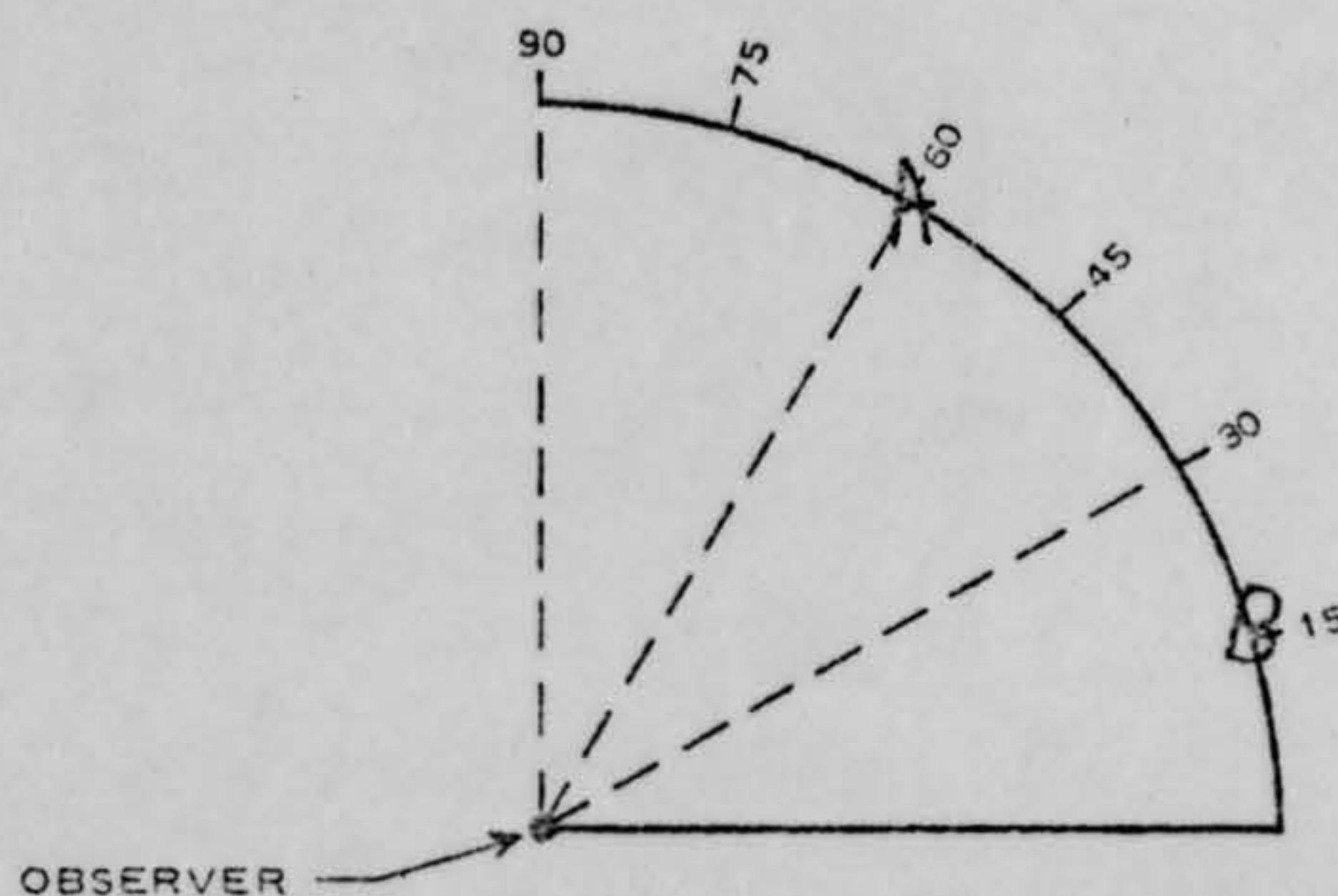
4. TIME / ZONE

☒ DAYLIGHT SAVINGS☐ STANDARD☐ EASTERN☐ CENTRAL☐ MOUNTAIN☐ PACIFIC☐ OTHER

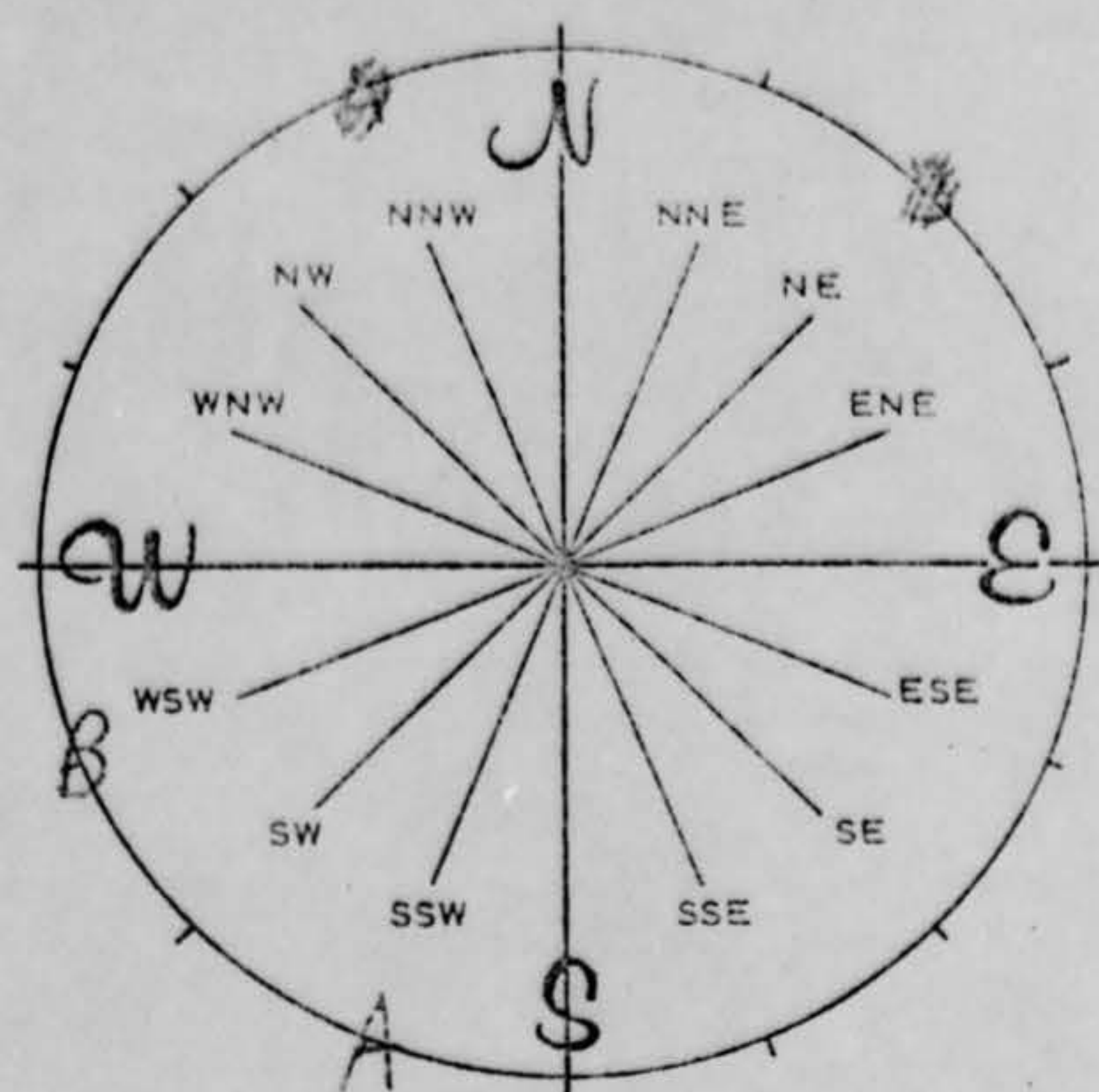
5. WHERE WERE YOU WHEN YOU SAW THE PHENOMENON? IF IN CITY, GIVE THE NEAREST STREET ADDRESS AND INDICATE ON A HAND DRAWN MAP WHERE YOU WERE STANDING WITH REFERENCE TO THE ADDRESS. IF IN THE COUNTRY, IDENTIFY THE HIGHWAY YOU WERE ON OR NEAR AND TRY TO FIX A DISTANCE AND DIRECTION FROM SOME RECOGNIZABLE LANDMARK.

I was at [REDACTED], DECATUR, ILLINOIS. THE ROAD ~~INSIDE~~ IN FRONT of our house IS CALLED "South ~~Taylor~~ ^{to 250} Taylor Road". I was about 200^{to 250} feet away from this road in our backyard. THEN I MOVED INSIDE AFTER WATCHING the object for 5 min. AND watched it through my SISTERS ROOM WINDOW. AT FIRST WHEN I WENT IN, I didn't mind ~~any~~ anything about it till I VIEWED IT AGAIN 30 MINUTES LATER through my SISTERS WINDOW. *then I watched it.*

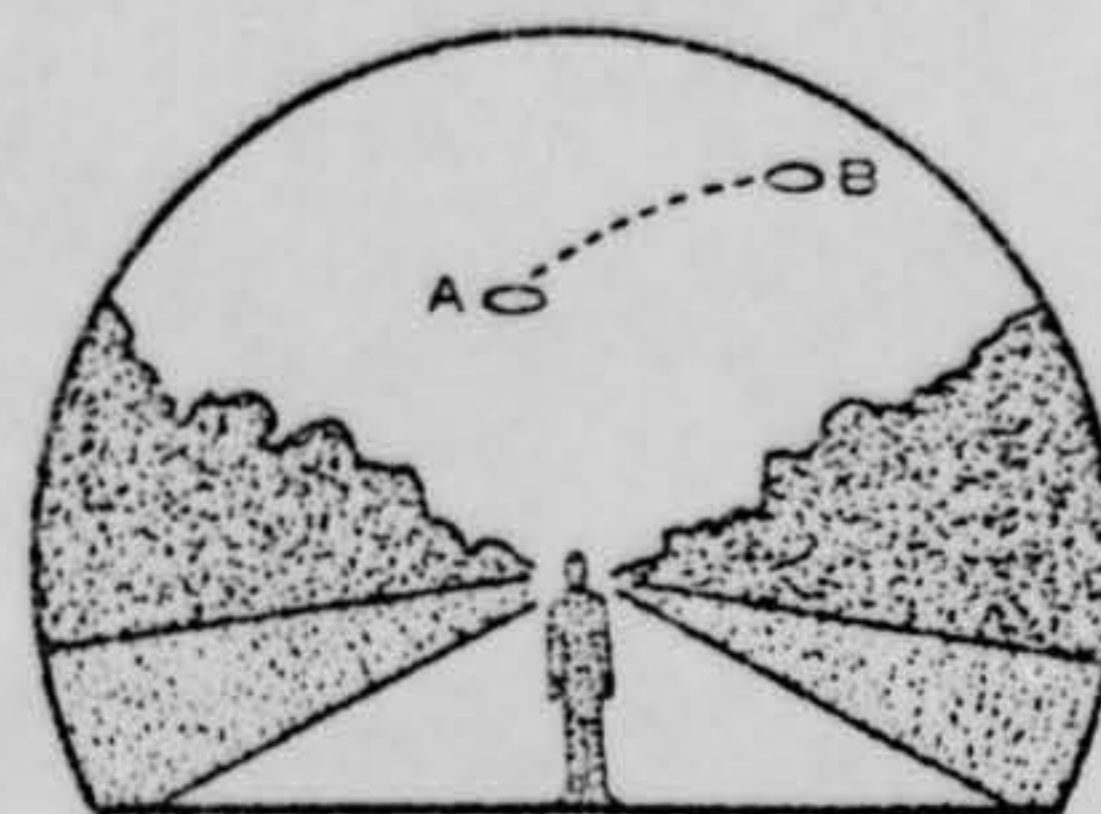
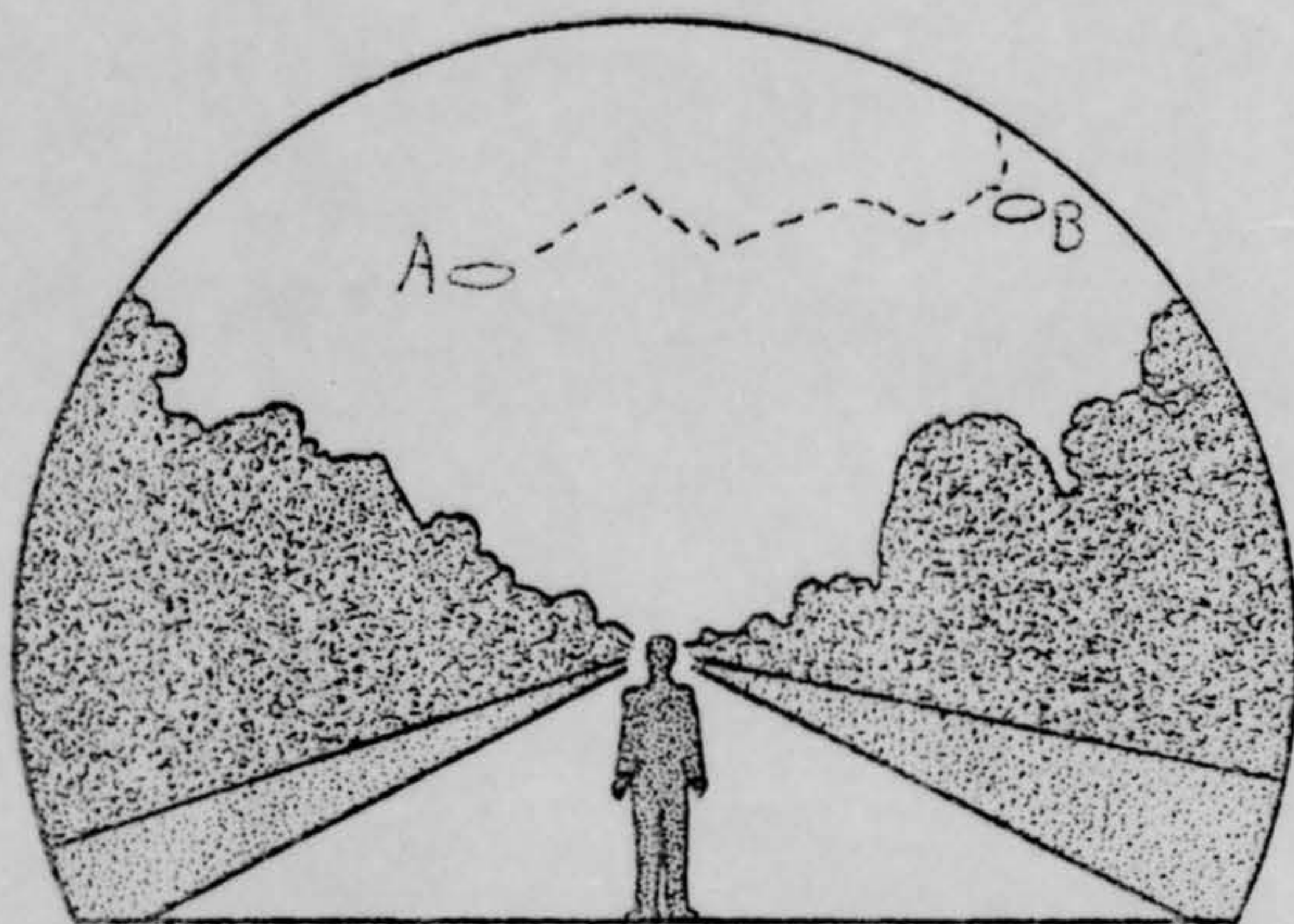
6. IMAGINE YOU ARE AT THE POINT SHOWN IN THE SKETCH. PLACE AN "A" ON THE CURVED LINE TO SHOW HOW HIGH THE PHENOMENON WAS ABOVE THE HORIZON, OR SKYLINE WHEN FIRST SEEN. PLACE A "B" ON THE SAME CURVED LINE TO SHOW HOW HIGH ABOVE THE HORIZON THE PHENOMENON WAS WHEN LAST SEEN.



6A. NOW IMAGINE YOU ARE AT THE CENTER OF THE COMPASS ROSE. PLACE AN "A" ON THE COMPASS TO INDICATE THE DIRECTION TO THE PHENOMENON WHEN FIRST SEEN. PLACE A "B" ON THE COMPASS TO INDICATE THE DIRECTION TO THE PHENOMENON WHEN LAST SEEN.



7. IN THE SKETCH BELOW, PLACE AN "A" AT THE POSITION OF THE PHENOMENON WHEN FIRST SEEN, AND A "B" AT THE POSITION OF THE PHENOMENON WHEN LAST SEEN. CONNECT THE "A" AND "B" WITH A LINE TO APPROXIMATE THE MOVEMENT OF THE PHENOMENON BETWEEN "A" AND "B". THAT IS, SCHEMATICALLY SHOW WHETHER THE MOVEMENT APPEARED TO BE STRAIGHT, CURVED OR ZIG-ZAG. REFER TO SMALLER SKETCH AS AN EXAMPLE OF HOW TO COMPLETE THE LARGER SKETCH.



8. WHERE WERE YOU WHEN YOU SAW THE PHENOMENON? (Check appropriate blocks.)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OUTDOORS			IN BUSINESS SECTION OF CITY
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN BUILDING			IN RESIDENTIAL SECTION OF CITY
IN CAR <input type="checkbox"/> AS DRIVER <input type="checkbox"/> AS PASSENGER			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPEN COUNTRYSIDE
IN BOAT			NEAR AIRFIELD
IN AIRPLANE <input type="checkbox"/> AS PILOT <input type="checkbox"/> AS PASSENGER			FLYING OVER CITY
OTHER			FLYING OVER OPEN COUNTRY
		OTHER	
A. IF YOU WERE IN A VEHICLE, COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING:			
WHAT DIRECTION WERE YOU MOVING?		HOW FAST WERE YOU MOVING?	
NORTH	EAST	DID YOU STOP ANYTIME WHILE OBSERVING THE PHENOMENON? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
SOUTH	WEST		
NORTHEAST	SOUTHEAST		
NORTHWEST	SOUTHWEST		
EXPLAIN WHETHER SUCH MOVEMENT AFFECTS YOUR SKETCHES IN ITEMS 5 AND 6.			
DESCRIBE TYPE OF VEHICLE YOU WERE IN AND TYPE OF ROAD, TERRAIN OR BODY OF WATER YOU TRAVERSED DURING THE SIGHTING. STATE WHETHER WINDOWS OR CONVERTIBLE TOP WERE UP OR DOWN.			
HOW MUCH OTHER TRAFFIC WAS THERE?			
DID YOU NOTICE ANY AIRPLANES? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO. IF "YES," DESCRIBE WHEN THEY WERE IN SIGHT RELATIVE TO THE TIME OF SIGHTING THE PHENOMENON AND WHERE THEY WERE IN THE SKY RELATIVE TO THE POSITION OF THE PHENOMENON.			
9. HOW LONG WAS THE PHENOMENON IN SIGHT?			
LENGTH OF TIME	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CERTAIN OF TIME	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT VERY SURE	
1 hour, 35 min.	<input type="checkbox"/> FAIRLY CERTAIN	<input type="checkbox"/> JUST A GUESS	
HOW WAS TIME DETERMINED? By CLOCK IN HOUSE-AND WATCH			
WAS THE PHENOMENON IN SIGHT CONTINUOUSLY? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO. IF "NO," INDICATE WHETHER THIS IS DUE TO YOUR MOVEMENT OR THE BEHAVIOR OF THE PHENOMENON, AND DESCRIBE SUCH MOVEMENT OR BEHAVIOR. INDICATE DISAPPEARANCES ON PREVIOUS SKETCHES.			
I can't say, because For thirty minutes I did not watch it. But when I was WATCHING IT IT DID NOT DIS DISAPPEAR AT ANYTIME.			

10. IF THERE WERE MORE THAN ONE PHENOMENON, HOW MANY WERE THERE? DRAW A PICTURE TO SHOW HOW THEY WERE ARRANGED. DID THIS ARRANGEMENT CHANGE DURING THE SIGHTING?

THERE WAS ONLY ONE.

11. CONDITIONS (Check appropriate blocks.)

A. SKY		B. WEATHER	
<input type="checkbox"/> DAY	<input type="checkbox"/> FEW	<input type="checkbox"/> CUMULUS CLOUDS (Low fluffy)	<input type="checkbox"/> FOG OR MIST
<input type="checkbox"/> TWILIGHT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CIRRUS CLOUDS (High fleecy or Herring-bone)	<input type="checkbox"/> HEAVY RAIN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NIGHT		<input type="checkbox"/> NIMBUS CLOUDS (Rain)	<input type="checkbox"/> LIGHT RAIN OR DRIZZLE
<input type="checkbox"/> CLEAR		<input type="checkbox"/> CUMULONIMBUS CLOUDS (Thunderstorms)	<input type="checkbox"/> HAIL
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARTLY CLOUDY		<input type="checkbox"/> HAZE OR SMOG	<input type="checkbox"/> SNOW OR SLEET
<input type="checkbox"/> COMPLETELY OVERCAST			<input type="checkbox"/> UNKNOWN
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NONE OF THE ABOVE

C. IF THE SIGHTING WAS AT TWILIGHT OR NIGHT, WHAT DID YOU NOTICE ABOUT THE STARS AND MOON?

(1) STARS	(2) MOON
<input type="checkbox"/> NONE	<input type="checkbox"/> BRIGHT MOONLIGHT
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A FEW	<input type="checkbox"/> MOON WITH HALO
<input type="checkbox"/> MANY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOON HIDDEN BY CLOUDS
<input type="checkbox"/> UNKNOWN	<input type="checkbox"/> PARTIAL (New or quarter)

D. IF SIGHTING WAS IN DAYLIGHT, WAS THE SUN VISIBLE? ☐ YES ☐ NO. IF "YES," WHERE WAS THE SUN AS YOU FACED THE PHENOMENON?

<input type="checkbox"/> IN FRONT OF YOU	<input type="checkbox"/> TO YOUR RIGHT	<input type="checkbox"/> OVERHEAD (Near noon)
<input type="checkbox"/> IN BACK OF YOU	<input type="checkbox"/> TO YOUR LEFT	<input type="checkbox"/> UNKNOWN

E. SPECIFY THE MAJOR SOURCE OF ILLUMINATION PRESENT DURING THE SIGHTING, SUCH AS THE SUN, HEADLIGHTS OR STREET LAMP, ETC. FOR TERRESTRIAL ILLUMINATION, SPECIFY DISTANCE TO LIGHT SOURCE.

The Moon (new moon)

12. GIVE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHENOMENON, INDICATING WHETHER IT APPEARED DARK OR LIGHT, WHETHER IT REFLECTED LIGHT OR WAS SELF-LUMINOUS AND WHAT COLORS YOU NOTICED. DESCRIBE YOUR IMPRESSION OF WHETHER IT WAS SOLID OR TRANSPARENT, WHETHER EDGES WERE SHARP OR FUZZY. DESCRIBE THE SHAPE OR INDICATE IF IT APPEARED AS A POINT OF LIGHT. INDICATE COMPARISONS WITH OTHER OBSERVED OBJECTS, LIKE STARS, A LIGHT OR OTHER OBJECT IN YOUR FIELD OF VIEW.

It appeared very light and I think it was self-luminous. It was completely white and solid. The edges were sharp at first then turned fuzzy. It appeared as if ~~there~~ there were a hole in the sky. A very solid hole. But I'm sure it ~~wasn't~~ wasn't the clouds parting. It changed shape from small to large and then back to small. It looked like a huge light, like the one in our backyard.

13.	DID THE PHENOMENON	YES	NO	UNKNOWN
	MOVE IN A STRAIGHT LINE?		X	
	STAND STILL AT ANYTIME?	X		
	SUDDENLY SPEED UP AND RUN AWAY?		X	
	BREAK UP IN PARTS AND EXPLODE?	X	X	
	CHANGE COLOR?		X	
	GIVE OFF SMOKE?		X	
	CHANGE BRIGHTNESS?	X		
	CHANGE SHAPE?	X		
	FLASH OR FLICKER?	X		
	DISAPPEAR AND REAPPEAR?		X	
	SPIN LIKE A TOP?		X	
	MAKE A NOISE?		X	
	FLUTTER OR WOBBLE?		X	

14. WHAT DREW YOUR ATTENTION TO THE PHENOMENON?

I'm always looking around in the sky and it just caught my eyes. It startled me.

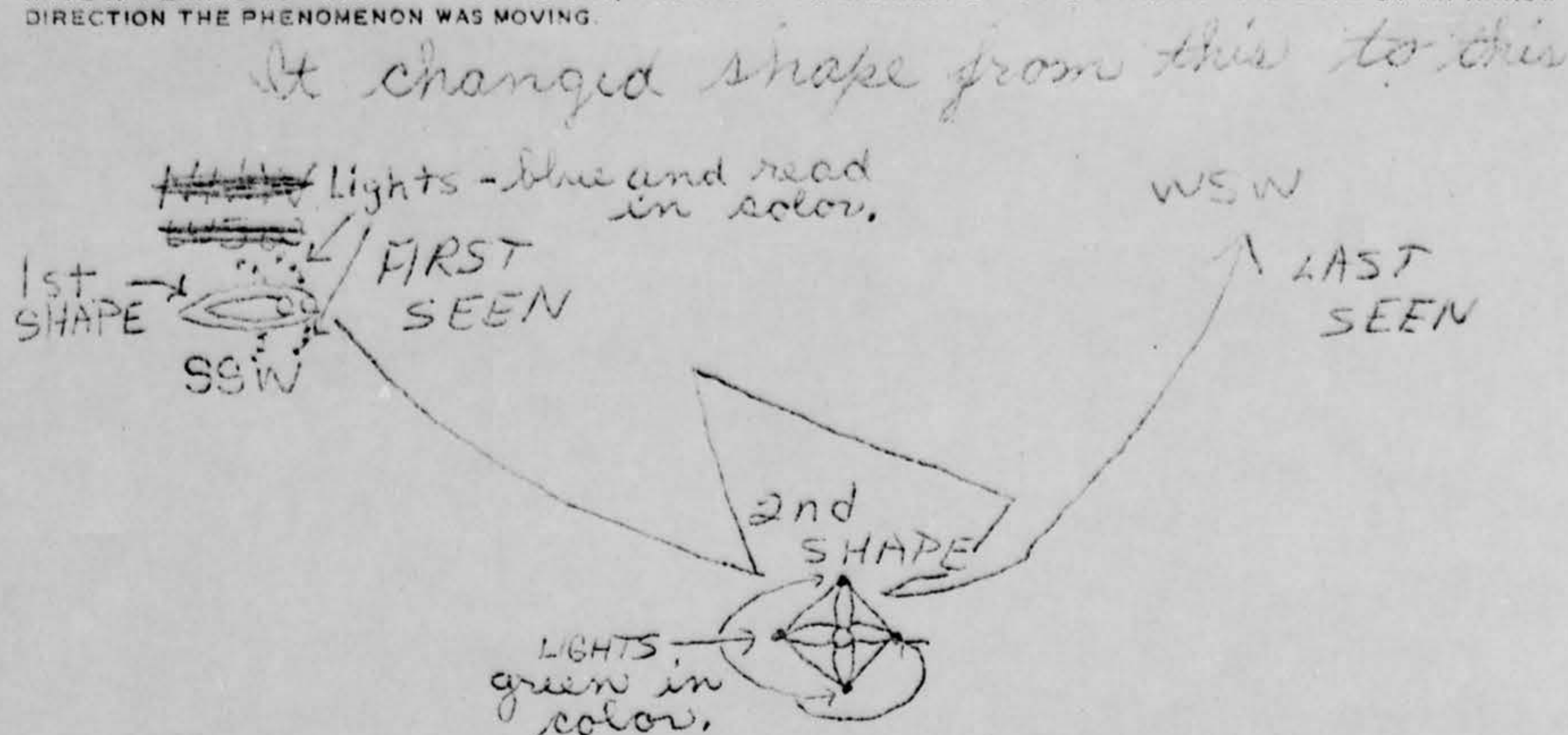
A. HOW DID IT FINALLY DISAPPEAR?

It finally disappeared by flying off and disappearing in the NE.

B. DID THE PHENOMENON MOVE BEHIND OR IN FRONT OF SOMETHING, LIKE A CLOUD, TREE, OR BUILDING AT ANY TIME?
☒ YES ☐ NO. IF "YES," DESCRIBE.

Once behind a tree but just for about 35 seconds.

15. DRAW A PICTURE THAT WILL SHOW THE SHAPE OF THE PHENOMENON. INCLUDE AND LABEL ANY DETAILS THAT MIGHT HAVE APPEARED AS WINGS OR PROTRUSIONS, AND INDICATE EXHAUST OR VAPOR TRAILS. INDICATE BY AN ARROW THE DIRECTION THE PHENOMENON WAS MOVING.



These shapes of the object is drawn as they looked through the telescope I was using. The lightning which came out of the object, came from the center.

16. WHAT WAS THE ANGULAR SIZE? HOLD A MATCH AT ARM'S LENGTH IN FRONT OF A KNOWN OBJECT, SUCH AS A STREET LAMP OR THE MOON. NOTE HOW MUCH OF THE OBJECT IS COVERED BY THE HEAD OF THE MATCH. NOW IF YOU HAD BEEN ABLE TO PERFORM THIS EXPERIMENT AT THE TIME OF THE SIGHTING, ESTIMATE WHAT FRACTION OF THE PHENOMENON WOULD HAVE BEEN COVERED BY THE MATCH HEAD.

About $\frac{1}{4}$ of the object would be covered by the match head.

17. DID YOU OBSERVE THE PHENOMENON THROUGH ANY OF THE FOLLOWING? INCLUDE INFORMATION ON MODEL, TYPE, FILTER, LENS PRESCRIPTION OR OTHER APPLICABLE DATA.			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EYEGLASSES <input type="checkbox"/> SUNGLASSES <input type="checkbox"/> WINDSHIELD <input type="checkbox"/> SIDE WINDOW OF VEHICLE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WINDOWPANE	<input type="checkbox"/> CAMERA VIEWER <input type="checkbox"/> BINOCULARS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TELESCOPE <input type="checkbox"/> THEODOLITE <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER		
A. DO YOU ORDINARILY WEAR GLASSES? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		B. DO YOU USE READING GLASSES? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	
18. WHAT WAS YOUR IMPRESSION OF THE SPEED OF THE PHENOMENON? GIVE ESTIMATE OF SPEED. <u>10 MPH</u>		19. WHAT WAS YOUR IMPRESSION OF THE DISTANCE OF THE PHENOMENON? GIVE ESTIMATE OF DISTANCE. <u>2 miles</u>	
20. IN ORDER THAT WE MAY OBTAIN AS CLEAR A PICTURE AS POSSIBLE OF WHAT YOU SAW, DESCRIBE IN YOUR OWN WORDS A COMMON OBJECT OR OBJECTS WHICH, WHEN PLACED IN THE SKY, SIMILAR TO WHERE YOU NOTED THE PHENOMENON, WOULD BEAR SOME RESEMBLANCE TO WHAT YOU SAW. DESCRIBE SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE COMMON OBJECT AND WHAT YOU SAW.			
<p><i>Well, I would say that the object was mostly similar to a street light. The object had a glow all to itself like a street light, but a street light glows real fuzzy around the edges, but this object changed from real shiny ^{glow} like the moon to a real fuzzy ^{glow} like the street light. It did not change this glowing action real fast like a star but twinkling but real slowly; about 50 seconds</i></p>			
21. DID YOU NOTICE ANY ODOR, NOISE, OR HEAT EMANATING FROM THE PHENOMENON OR ANY EFFECT ON YOURSELF, ANIMALS OR MACHINERY IN THE VICINITY? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO. IF "YES," DESCRIBE.			
<p><i>No odor, noise, or heat, but in in the last few minutes it was in sight it shot out lightning like light which made me feel real cold and clammy. But it was not lightning because it was real quite quiet outside.</i></p>			
A. DID THE PHENOMENON DISTURB THE GROUND OR LEAVE ANY PHYSICAL EVIDENCE. <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO. IF "YES," DESCRIBE.			

22. HAVE YOU EVER SEEN THIS OR A SIMILAR PHENOMENON BEFORE? ☐ YES ☒ NO. IF "YES," GIVE DATE AND LOCATION.

23. WAS ANYONE WITH YOU AT THE TIME YOU SAW THE PHENOMENON? ☒ YES ☐ NO. IF "YES," DID THEY SEE IT TOO?
☒ YES ☐ NO.

A. LIST THEIR NAMES AND ADDRESSES
It was my sister, Gail, but she only observed it for a few minutes.

24. GIVE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ABOUT YOURSELF

LAST NAME, FIRST NAME, MIDDLE NAME
 [REDACTED]

ADDRESS (Street, City, State and Zip Code)
 [REDACTED] *Decatur, Illinois, 62521*

TELEPHONE (Area code and number) [REDACTED] AGE *13* ☒ MALE ☐ FEMALE

INDICATE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION INCLUDING OCCUPATION AND ANY EXPERIENCE WHICH MAY BE PERTINENT.
Well, I don't have an occupation, but I hope to someday form my own UFO research organization. I am very interested in flying saucers. I have all kinds of information on UFO's (flying saucers), and I know I've never seen anything like this before. I'm also interested in astronomy, which is one of my favorite fields of science, and in chemistry.

25. WHEN AND TO WHOM DID YOU REPORT THAT YOU HAD SIGHTED THIS PHENOMENON?
 NAME *Project Blue Book* DAY *21* MONTH *Oct.* YEAR *1968*

26. DATE YOU COMPLETED THIS QUESTIONNAIRE.
 DAY *24* MONTH *Oct.* YEAR *1968*